NCA
VOC FOR PGM/FN
BACKGROUNGER NO. 5-6266
JOHN GUERRINI/UNITED NATIONS NOVEMBER 17, 1978

CHINA AND U-N AID

ANNCR:

THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA IS SEEKING DEVELOPMENT AID FROM THE UNITED NATIONS. VOA'S JOHN GUERRINI AT U-N HEADQUARTERS HAS A BACKGROUND REPORT ON THIS SHIFT IN CHINA'S LONGSTANDING POLICY OF SELF-RELIANCE.

VOICE:

SEASONED U-N OBSERVERS WERE NOT TAKEN BY SURPRISE. ONCE CHINA'S NEW LEADERS DECIDED ON A VAST MODERNIZATION PROGRAM, IT WAS CLEAR THEY WOULD HAVE TO TURN TO OUTSIDE HELP.

IN AUGUST, THE CHINESE SENT A VERY HIGH-LEVEL DELEGATION TO BUENOS AIRES THE U-N CONFERENCE ON TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. THAT'S WHEN THEY PUT OUT THEIR FIRST FEELERS ON U-N TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

THEN IN OCTOBER PEKING SIGNED AN AGREEMENT TO EXPAND COOPERATION WITH THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION. THE AGREEMENT PROVIDES FOR THE TRAINING OF CHINESE SPECIALISTS ABROAD AND THE IMPORTATION OF MODERN MEDICAL EQUIPMENT.

ONLY LAST WEEK CHINA ANNOUNCED A MAJOR CONTRIBUTION TO THE U-N DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM OF ONE-POINT-TWO MLLLION DOLLARS. THAT WAS THE FIRST PLEDGE FROM CHINA IN A FEW YEARS. THEN, A COUPLE OF DAYS LATER CAME THE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT CHINA HAS APPROACHED THE U-N-D-P FOR DEVELOPMENT AID.

THE AMOUNT IS DESCRIBED HERE AS VERY MODEST--PERHAPS TEN TO FIFTEEN MILLION DOLLARS OVER THE NEXT THREE YEARS. BUT ACCORDING TO U-N OFFICIALS IT'S LIKELY TO BE CONCENTRATED IN AN AREA CRITICAL TO CHINA'S ENTIRE DEVELOPMENT EFFORT. A FOUR-MAN

TEAM IS LEAVING FOR PEKING AT THE END OF THE MONTH TO STUDY POSSIBILITIES FOR AID, BUT OFFICIALS SAY ALREADY THAT MOST OF THE FUNDS WILL BE SPENT ON LANGUAGE TRAINING. THE TRAINING WOULD FOCUS ON ENGLISH, AND TO SOME EXTENT, FRENCH--GIVING THE CHINESE ACCESS TO ADVANCED TECHNICAL INFORMATION THAT IS AVAILABLE ONLY IN THOSE LANGUAGES--AND PREPARING THEIR TECHNICIANS FOR STUDY ABROAD.

DOES ALL THIS MEAN THAT CHINA IS ABANDONING SELF-RELIANCE? WELL, ONE U-N OFFICIAL SAYS IT'S CLEAR THE CHINESE ARE MORE FLEXIBLE ABOUT IT. HE SAYS THE CHINESE ARE STILL PROUD OF WHAT THEY CAN ACHIEVE BY THEIR OWN EFFORTS--BUT THAT THEY'VE COME TO REALIZE THEY CAN GET MORE OUT OF THESE EFFORTS BY ADOPTING MODERN TECHNOLOGY.

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